(d) to (f) The National Health Policy 2002 states that State Governments could rigorously enforce a mandatory two-year rural posting before the awarding of the graduate degree. Some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. courses or at the time of initial appointment.

Amendment in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

1256. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to include a clause on genetically modified food;

(b) whether our laboratories are fully equipped to test the genetically modified foods for safety certification; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The possibility of incorporating provision to regulate sale/import of GM foods under PFA Rules, 1955 is presently under consideration.

(b) and (c) At present, our laboratories are not fully equipped to test the genetically modified foods for safety certification. However, many of the Indian Laboratories are equipped for conducting food safety evaluation. Few of the Institutions namely, Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow; GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology; Pant Nagar; Natioanl Dairy Research Institute Karnal; Central Avian Research Institute, Bareilly and Central Institute of Fisheries Education , Mumbai were engaged in food and feed safety evaluation of Genetically Modified Cotton.

WHO permission for manufacturing herbal drugs

1257. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Herbal Industry is awaiting a decision from World Health Organisation for manufacturing certain drugs;

(b) if so, whether such a permission is mandatory and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Western countries have been conducting extensive research on Indian herbs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued general guidelines for methodologies on research and evaluation of traditional medicines and traditional medicines strategy for the members countries. WHO is not a mandatory body. Their permission is not required for conducting any research.

(c) and (d) It is a known fact that Western countries are conducting research on Indian herbs including, Bhumi Amalaki (Plyllanthus amarus), Nimba (Azadirahta indica) and haridra (Curcuma longa) etc.

Committee on population Policy

1258. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Committee to help State Governments to devise population policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives proposed to be achieved by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Level Resources Committee has been constituted to assist the States in formulation of Population Policies with State specific strategies while keeping in mind the general spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000. The composition of National Level Resources Committee (NLRC) is as under:

(i) Dr.Vimla Ramachandran Health Watch.
(ii) Dr. Leela Visaria, Delhi University, Delhi
(iii) Dr. Almas Ali, Consultant, UNFPA/MoHFW.
(iv) Dr. Moham Rao, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
(v) Dr. (Mrs) Mira Shiva, Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi.
(vi) Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
(vii) Sh. S.C. Srivastava, Director (Policy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.